

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1.(Currently Amended)

*computer-implemented*  
A system for assembling an application for processing image

or image-derived data, comprising:

a base operator configured to interface with one or more derivative operator classes, each operator class including an operator object for executing a processing function on the image or image-derived data; and

a base multiport node class configured to provide a multiport node for each operator object, each the multiport node ~~nodes~~ instantiating a pluggable operator for connecting the multiport nodes together at runtime according to user-defined parameters, and wherein the connection of multiport nodes implements the processing functions of the operator objects to execute the application.

2.(Original) The system of claim 1, wherein each multiport node includes N inputs and M outputs, each input and output having a connection with at least one other multiport node.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the pluggable operator includes a pointer to an operator object.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the pluggable operator is an class derived from the multiport node.

5. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the pluggable operator is configured to call the operator object.

6. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the pointer is based on the user-defined parameters.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the user-defined parameters are dynamically definable at run time of the application.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the pluggable operator is configured to adapt the pointer array to changes in the user-defined parameters.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein each multiport node is configured to adapt to changes in the pointer array.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the base operator interface is configured to enable more or less operator classes at runtime.

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11. (Currently Amended) <sup>computer-implemented</sup> A method of assembling an application for processing image or image-derived data, comprising:

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providing a base operator having an interface for interacting with one or more derivative operator classes, each operator class including an operator object for executing <sup>a</sup> processing function on the image or image-derived data;

providing a base multiport node configured to provide a multiport node for each interacting operator object; and

connecting the multiport nodes with a pluggable operator instantiated by each ~~the~~ multiport ~~nodes~~ node.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the pluggable operator includes a pointer to an operator object.